

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5792

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 6597

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, JO, IS

SUBJECT: JORDAN-ISRAEL BORDER COMPLAINT

REF: AMMAN 6564

1. THIS TELEGRAM PRESENTS ADDITIONAL DETAILS JORDANIAN COMPLAINT ABOUT WADI ARABA FENCE (REFTEL).

2. JORDANIAN MEMO, FROM OUR ROUGH NOTES INDICATES THAT IT IS A SUMMARY OF "ENEMY" (ISRAELI) INTRUSIONS FROM 1970 WHICH STILL EXIST. IN EARLY 1970, THE MEMO CLAIMS THE ISRAELIS DRILLED AN ARTESIAN WELL IN OURAREA" JUST WEST OF REBEL BATHI, GRID COORDINATES 170/973 (ALL COORDINATES ARE PALESTINE GRID) (3023N 3512E). AT THE SAME A PIECE OF JORDANIAN TERRITORY WAS CUT OFF BY THE PUTTING UP OF A BARBED WIRE FENCE. THE TERRITORY HAD A WIDTH OF 1.0 TO 7.5 KILOMETERS AND A LENGHT OF 80 KILOMETERS. A ROAD WAS BUILT IN THE AREA BEGINNING AT THE POINT WHERE THE WADI AIDAN MEETS THE WADI JEIB (GRID 181/030) (3051N 3520E) AS FAR AS WIDI GHAMR (GRID 168:950) (VICINITY 3013N 3512E) AND THEN WEST TO THE ARMISTICE DEMARCATION LINE AT (GRID 164/957) (3012N 3509E). ROAD IS BUILT WITH TWO ROWS OF BARBED WIRE ALONG IT 20 METERS APART AND 6 FEET HIGH. DURING OCTOBER 1971, CONFIDENTIAL

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THREE PREFABRICATED BUILDINGS EACH 4 BY 5 METERS WERE

BUILT AND OCCUPIED BY 30 PERSONS ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL WORK IN THE SAME REGION AS THE ROAD. IN MARCH OF 1972 A WATER WELL WAS DRILLED AT WADI QANTARA (GRID 169/977) (3023N 3512E).

3. IN MARCH OF 1972 THE JORDANIAN CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE ON JOINT ARMISTICE COMMISSION PRESENTED A COMPLAINT TO THE CHIEF UN REPRESENTATIVE ON UNTSO. THE REPLY WHICH WAS RECEIVED BY JORDAN IS RECORDED IN REFTEL. ON 10 APRIL 1972 A JOINT UN- JORDANIAN INSPECTION OF THE AREA WAS CONDUCTED UNDER UN SUPERVISION WITH THE RESULTS INDICATED IN REFTEL.

4. A SEPARATE INTELLIGENCE MEMO INDICATES THE FENCE EXTENDS FROM THE WADI JURF HIMAR (3021N 3511E) DOWN TO HILLS NORTH OF ELAT (2952N 3505E).

5. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY HAS BEEN GIVEN MAP OVERLAY AT A SCALE OF 1:250,000 WHICH SHOWS ROUGH ALIGNMENT OF FENCE. FENCE AS SHOWN RUNS NORTH AND SOUTH ROUGHLY ONE TO TWO KILOMETERS EAST OF DEMARCATION LINE SHOWN ON US MAPS SERIES 1501, NH 30-12 AND NH 36-8, BUT NO MORE THAN 5 KILOMETERS WIDE. LENGTH AS SHOWN IS ABOUT 105-110 KILOMETERS. FENCE BEGINS IN SOUTH AT 2952N 3505E AND ENDS IN NORTH AT 3051N 3520E AND PASSES THROUGH FOLLOWING POINTS IN A LINE ROUGHLY NORTH NORTH EAST (3006N 3511E); 3021N 3513E); (3041N 3518E). COPIES OF MAP PRODUCED FROM OVERLAY

AND OF OVERLAY BY POUCH TO ADDRESSEES. OVERLAY HAS NOTATION "OIL REGION" IN ARABIC IN ISRAELI TERRITORY AT 3002N 3505E.

6. COPIES OF AQABA NAUTICAL CHART WITH ANCHORAGE AREA COMPLAINT ALSO FORWARDED BY POUCH.
PICKERING

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